




UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF PREVENTION, PESTICIDES
AND TOXIC SUBSTANCES

October 19, 2007

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Effects Determinations for chlorothalonil Relative to the California Red-Legged Frog and Designated Critical Habitat

FROM: Stephanie Syslo
ERB 3 
Environmental Fate and Effects Division

TO: Arthur-Jean B. Williams, Acting Division Director
Environmental Fate and Effects Division

Attached is the assessment of potential direct and indirect effects to the California red-legged frog (CRLF) and potential modification to designated critical habitat from uses of the fungicide chlorothalonil. While the Endangered Species Act requires we assess uses of pesticides relative to any potentially affected listed species, this assessment focuses only on the CRLF, including designated critical habitat, addressing provisions of a settlement agreement entered into by the federal government to resolve claims made by plaintiffs against EPA in a court case (CBD v. EPA¹).

The attached assessment was conducted consistent with the Agency's Overview Document². Effects determinations for this assessment are summarized below:

- The assessment resulted in a determination that the use of pesticide products containing chlorothalonil may affect, and is likely to adversely affect (LAA) the California red-legged frog (CRLF). The determination is based on direct and indirect effects from potential exposures to chlorothalonil or its major degradate (SDS-3701);
- Likely to adversely affect determinations were made for both aquatic and terrestrial-phase CRLFs due to chronic and acute exposures;
- Potential indirect effects included a reduction in prey (aquatic and terrestrial habitats) for both acute and chronic exposures;
- Labeled uses of chlorothalonil within the action area may modify designated critical habitat of the CRLF;

¹ Settlement agreement of October 20, 2006: Center for Biological Diversity v. United States Environmental Protection Agency. Civ. No: 02-1580-JSW(JL)).

² Overview of the Ecological Risk Assessment: Process in the Office of Pesticide Programs, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: Endangered and Threatened Species Effects Determinations: January 23, 2004.

- Tables 1.1, 1.2, and 1.3 of the Executive Summary of the Pesticide Effects Determination document provides a more detailed account of the effects determination.

As required by the Alternative Consultation Agreement EPA entered into with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service (Services), I have been trained by the Services to make such determinations. Additionally, this assessment was subjected to internal Agency peer review throughout its development. The review panel included one other scientist who has been trained by the Services to make such determinations (Melissa Panger).

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding this assessment and effects determination for chlorothalonil relative to the CRLF and its designated critical habitat.

cc: Debbie Edwards
Steven Bradbury

Attachments